

Exodus 16:1-36 **Manna and Quail begin at the Wilderness of Sin**

¹ And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, **that I may test them**, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD." ⁹ Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'"

¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.' " ¹⁷ And the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need. ¹⁹ And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." ²⁰ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹ So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

²² And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. ²³ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will

bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' " ²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it. ²⁵ Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? ²⁹ See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day. ³¹ And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

³² Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' " ³³ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations." ³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. ³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. ³⁶ Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The Children of Israel arrived at the Wilderness of Sin exactly one month after they left Goshen in Egypt.
- ✧ Their **second test** was a simple commandment, like the one given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and it also was designed to see if they will obey God's laws or not.
- ✧ God demonstrated that He was serious about the precedent of rest on the Sabbath that He had established in the days of original creation and that He intended for man to follow His example. [Genesis 2:1-3]
- ✧ The Children of Israel remembered the food they ate in Egypt and murmured against Moses and Aaron because of the lack of food available in the wilderness.
- ✧ God provided manna with restrictions as a test for the Children of Israel.
 - ◇ Gather manna by quota every day except on the Sabbath day, because that is a day of rest.
 - ◇ On the sixth day gather twice as much so they may rest on the Sabbath day.
- ✧ The purpose of the manna and the quail, was to prove that it was indeed God Who brought Israel out of Egypt and that God is able to provide for them in an adverse environment.
- ✧ The person who gathered little had no lack, and the one who gathered much had no overage, demonstrating it was God's provision and not man's efforts.
- ✧ It was also to reveal the glory of Yehowah.
- ✧ It demonstrates that God hears our murmurings.
- ✧ The murmurings were directed toward Moses and Aaron, but God viewed them as murmurings against Himself because He was instructing Moses and Aaron.
- ✧ The evidence was when Quail were provided in the evening and Manna in the morning.
- ✧ The Glory of Yehowah appeared in the cloud.
- ✧ Yehowah spoke to Moses and said:
 - ◇ "I have heard the murmurings of the Children of Israel. Speak to them saying, At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread.
 - ◇ **You shall know that I am Yehowah Eloheykem (the Lord Your God)"**

- ✧ Moses gave the Children of Israel instructions regarding the manna:
 - ✧ Gather an omer of manna for each person but do not keep it over night except on the sixth day, then keep it over night to provide food for the Sabbath.
- ✧ The manna that was kept over night bred worms and stank, demonstrating that God was watching and He expressed His displeasure with their disobedience, and Moses was angry with them.
- ✧ The manna that was gathered the sixth day and kept over night did not go bad because it was done in obedience to the command of God.
- ✧ The manna was provided for six days but there was none on the Sabbath because it was a day of rest.
- ✧ When people went out to gather on the seventh day even though they found none as God had said, it angered Yehowah and He said:
 - ✧ “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?
 - ✧ See! For Yehowah has given you the Sabbath, therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days.
 - ✧ Let every man remain in his place, and let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”
- ✧ God used this occasion to teach His valuation of His own example and His commandment regarding the sacredness of the Sabbath, and the need of man for one day of rest out of seven.
- ✧ The manna was very small like coriander seed, and the taste was like sweet bread, wafers made with honey.
 - ✧ Jews today use honey when teaching the laws of God to their children, to relate to them that the commandments of God are pleasant and good for life, in keeping with the teaching of Moses. [\[Deuteronomy 30:15-20, 32:46-47, Psalm 19:9-10\]](#)
- ✧ A pot was filled with an omer of manna at the command of God and laid before Yehowah as a Testimony to the future generations of the Children of Israel that they may see the bread with which Yehowah fed Israel in the wilderness when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.
- ✧ The Children of Israel ate manna for 40 years until they came to the land of Canaan and ate the fruit of the land of their inheritance.
- ✧ An omer is a tenth of an ephah, approximately 2 liters, or 2.087 quarts, 0.11 bushel.